

Urban Forestry Commission Meeting  
Monday, November 27, 2017, 4:30 PM  
Cravath Lakefront Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, City Municipal Building  
312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190

**\*Amended Agenda as of 1:00 p.m. November 22, 2017. Added approval of minutes from October 23, 2017.**

Agenda:

Citizens are invited to speak to agenda items as they appear on the agenda. Participants are allowed a 3 minute speaking period.

Call to Order:

Roll Call:

Approval of Agenda: Items can be removed or changed but not added to the agenda.

**\*Approval of Minutes from September 25, 2017 and October 23, 2017.**

Treasurer's Report: (Knedler)  
Budget

Staff Report: City Forester: (Nass)  
Planting update:  
Construction update

Bird City/Bird Talk: (information and comments)  
Washington Elementary School activities (report)  
Bird Count  
Seed Library

Tree City/Tree Talk  
Walton Oaks Park (Elizabeth Hoffman report )  
(volunteer planning/Nick Alt)  
Year of the Oak  
Other tree considerations

Plan Board: (Stanek)

Parks and Recreation: (Knedler)

Announcements:

Suggested topics for future meetings

Adjournment

Next meeting: January 22, 2018

**City of Whitewater  
Urban Forestry Commission  
September 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** 4:35 p.m. by Chair Coburn

**Roll Call:** Anne Zarinnia, Jerry Schoen, Rose Mary Leaver, Karen McCulloch, Brandon Knedler, Nick Alt **Staff:** Chuck Nass **Guest:** Kori Oberle

**Approval of Agenda:** Leaver moved approval, Alt 2nd, unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Leaver moved approval, Zarinnia 2nd, unanimously approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Coburn submitted a budget request to the council for consideration for 2018; Alt turned in \$8 from honey sales.

**Staff Report:** There are three trees left to be planted this fall at Starin Park circle in front of Senior Center. Leaver asked if newly planted trees should be straightened if they are leaning. They may be straightened. City planted 200 trees in 2017. Two staff (seasonal) keep them watered weekly during dry periods for the first year.

**Bird City/Bird Talk:** McCulloch is talking to schools about an activity where the kids will take bird nests apart to see what they're made of. Ginny Coburn had this activity at the Main Street Festival and it was popular. Stanek asked if the city has a new Bird City flag as the one that is currently flying is tattered, Nass said that we don't and that it has to be purchased. Leaver moved that we order a new Bird City flag, Zarinnia 2nd, unanimously approved. Stanek still needs to update Bird City signs to new format with date being since \_\_\_\_\_ instead of having to update the year each year. Will get this done this fall.

**Tree City/Tree Talk:** Should there be a Walton Oaks restoration talk with the Effigy Mounds Group? Guest Kori Oberle told us about her upcoming talk scheduled for 1 p.m., September 26th at Fairhaven, this program will talk about Whitewater Treasures including the Territorial Oak at the corner of Main and Franklin Streets. This tree is featured on page 60 of "Every Root and Anchor"

where it outlines the beginning point of the surveying of Whitewater. Coburn and Nass talked about doing an acorn project with the kids at Washington School. Nass has long wanted to have kids raise trees from the acorns of the Territorial Oak Tree so that we can continue to have trees in the city that continue the lineage of this important tree. The tree won't last forever and is showing signs of decline. Oberle will gather acorns from this tree. Coburn asked Nass about the effect of continuing to have vehicles parked weekly under the maple trees at the Historic Depot for City Markets on Tuesdays. Nass will take a look during the next market. McCulloch pointed out that she attends many markets like this and that normally, vendors pull up and unload their vehicles and then park them elsewhere, not on the lawn or under trees. Alt said that he had spoken with Paul Majors about the possibility of the high school establishing a School Forest. Where would this be located? It would definitely not be a simple project. Is there land that the DNR owns that could be donated for this purpose? Does the school district have land that could be used for this purpose? More discussion to follow at future meetings. Stanek stated that anybody who would like to weed the beds in the Clay Street Nature Park may do so whenever they see a need. Stanek also said that the Downtown Arboretum sign project will be completed this winter so that signs can be installed at the Main Street tree surrounds next spring, 2018. We need to decide how much information we would like about each tree. Just botanical and common name? Or more information about each tree? Stanek and Nass will work together on this. UFC Standards: Coburn passed out copies of the City Of Whitewater Landscape Guidelines and Suggested Practices. Some things need to be updated but overall it's fine. UFC still needs to continue to work with Chris Munz-Pritchard on easier point system sheets for landscaping at city developments.

**Downtown Main Street Festival:** The festival was very well attended and Alt's Bird Migration bean bag game was a big hit. Lots of people won bottles of honey and other prizes left from our International Migratory Day Bird Fair in August.

**PLan Board:** No report.

**Park & Recreation Board:** Discussion was held about city staff's work on removing buckthorn patches at Walton Oaks, and how much faster this is going than individually removing trees. Zarinnia moved that this work continue by city staff this fall, Knedler 2nd, unanimously approved. Knedler will talk to Eric

Boettcher, Whitewater's new Park & Rec. Director to line up the next park visits. The main concerns of Park & Rec. board lately have been regarding Aquatic Center issues.

**Announcements:** Kori Oberle presentation on Whitewater Treasures at Fairhaven at 1 p.m., September 26, 2017.

**Suggested topics for future meetings:** Zarinnia will talk about the importance of oaks in our ecosystem; Alt will talk about a possible School Forest project, and will contact Prairie Bob.

**Move to adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Zarinnia, Leaver 2nd, unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting:** October 23rd, 2017 in City Manager's 2nd floor conference room at City Hall.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Sherry Stanek, Secretary

**City of Whitewater  
Urban Forestry Commission  
October 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** 4:43 p.m. by Chair, Coburn

**Roll Call:** Anne Zarinnia, RoseMary Leaver, Karen McCulloch, Karen Coburn, Brandon Knedler, Sherry Stanek **Absent:** Jerry Schoen, Nick Alt

**Staff:** Brian Neumeister

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve by Zarinnia, 2nd by Leaver, unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tabled for next meeting. Minutes not available in time.

**Treasurer's Report:** Coburn reported that as of today, the City Council has allocated no money for UFC for 2018. Coburn will speak to her Council representative and report back. Zarinnia moved, and Stanek 2nd that the new Parks Director, Eric Boettcher come to our next meeting to introduce himself and spend ten minutes or so outlining his plans for our parks. Unanimously approved. Coburn will let him know. Coburn reported that the Whitewater Foundation grants dollars for specific projects in the city. Leaver will get the guidelines and report back so that we can possibly pursue this. Members need to give thought to possible fundraisers. Zarinnia said that money needs to go into educating UFC members so that they can, in turn, educate the community. Knedler said that UFC budget hadn't been discussed at last Parks & Rec. meeting.

**Staff Report:** Neumeister reported that broken limbs around town are being trimmed as well as some ash tree removal as staff is available for this ongoing job. Aqua Net has been ordered to treat Japanese Knotweed that is still growing in town despite repeated cutting back and chemical treatment. Leaver asked if terrace trees are found that still have the small plastic tubes on them that are obviously too small, and was told it is alright to remove them as sometimes they are missed. Senior Center concrete still needs to be cut for remaining trees to be planted there this fall. Coburn asked if Nass had sent a report on the continued concern about City Market vendors parking on tree roots, Neumeister will check.

**Bird City/Bird Talk:** Washington Elementary activities are in full swing. McCulloch reported that two Fourth Grade classes will participate in a program on acorns that Kim Adams and a few of her students will do to make ornaments out of unviable acorns on November 17th along with a 10 minute presentation on the importance of oak trees for

birds and insects. Over 1000 acorns have been gathered! On December 8th, Kori Oberle will give a short presentation to Third Grade students at Washington on the Territorial Oak which will be followed by students testing acorns for viability by dropping them into water. If they drop to the bottom, they are viable. Coburn has been preserving leaves, branches and acorns with glycerine and water to use to decorate an oak tree that will be placed at Washington Elem. Coburn brought a great book for kids about how an acorn becomes a tree (Life Cycle books, Acorn to Oak Tree). Leaver will talk to public library about adding books about oak trees and acorns. Coburn found a couple of nice handouts for each of these activities describing how to grow oak trees and their importance. Zarinnia was asked if she would like to speak to the kids at the November 17th activity. Coburn and Leaver will work to paint the oak tree and critters to put on and around it. E-Bird handout was handed out and members are encouraged to read and participate.

**Seed Library:** Seeds need to be collected to replenish the Seed Library. Knedler offered his prairie and Alt's neighbors the Mishkas offered theirs.

**Tree City/Tree Talk:** We should organize work days to treat Buckthorn stubble this winter as city staff continues to clear areas at Walton Oaks.

Clay Street Nature Park plant signs shed their marking with permanent markers. Coburn will work on finding something that really will stay put on the signs. Downtown Arboretum signs will be worked on over the winter by Stanek and Nass for placement next spring. Coburn suggested that a map be assembled of all the oak trees in Whitewater next year?

**Plan Board:** No report.

**Parks & Rec Board:** Most of the discussion at the Board this year has been regarding the Aquatic Center. Knedler suggested that in the future, A C items be brought up on a quarterly basis so that parks and other issues can be discussed as well. Knedler reported that the soonest date to begin work on Cravath Lake would be September of 2019. So far the plan is to lower the water for up to 3 years to kill all of the vegetation and then to dig out and remove the dirt to deepen the lake. Stanek brought up the continued problem of grass clippings being shot out into the street by people and that they go directly into the storm sewers and then into the lakes, adding to the problems with our lakes. Discussion needs to be had with Landlord Association and residents and put on the Whitewater Banner to get the word out to residents who may not realize they are contributing to this problem. Stanek asked whether Parks & Rec has discussed putting money into a "set aside" fund for the dredging of the lakes, so that when it needs to be done, there are at least some funds to use, and Knedler said it has

been discussed but that short term budgetary concerns usually come first. There is not currently a fund for this purpose.

**Announcements:** None

**Suggested Topics for Future Meetings:** None

**Adjournment:** Leaver moved for adjournment, Knedler 2nd, unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting:** November 27, 2017 in City Manager's 2nd floor conference room in City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary